We claim:

1. An electronic circuit for protecting electronic devices, comprising:

a first component and a second component each having an electrical variable of the same type;

a third component for comparing values of the electrical variable of the first component and of the second component with one another;

a setting device for setting a value of the electrical variable of said first component and of said second component;

a matching device for matching the value of the electrical variable of the first component to the value of the electrical variable of the second component, starting from a basic value, and during a given period of time;

a checking device for checking whether an authorized use of the electronic device is properly initiated, executed, and terminated, and, in case of unauthorized or improper use, said checking device bringing about a change in the value of the electrical variable of the second component or a change in the matching device such that the period of time necessary to match the value of the electrical variable of the first

component to the value of the electrical variable of the second component by the matching device is prolonged.

2. The circuit according to claim 1, wherein said checking device checks whether the value of the electrical variable of the first component is equal to a value which the electrical variable of the first component has after a use of the electronic device that is properly terminated.

3. The circuit according to claim 1, wherein said first component is a first floating gate cell and said second component is a second floating gate cell.

4. The circuit according to claim 3, wherein the electrical variable of said first and second components is a turn-on voltage, and wherein, in case of unauthorized or improper use, a value of the turn-on voltage of said second floating gate cell is changed.

5. A method of protecting electronic devices, which comprises:

providing an electronic circuit with first and second components each having an electrical variable of the same type, and a device for setting a value of the electrical variable in each of the first and second components;

ensuring that a use of the electronic device lasts at least as long as is required for an electronic process that takes a specific time to match a predefined basic value of the electrical variable of the first component to a respective value of the electrical variable of the second component functioning as a reference value; and

as a result of an unauthorized access or as a result of an improper use, prolonging the specific time taken by the electronic process by one of changing the reference value and changing a speed of the matching operation.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the components of the circuit are two floating gate cells with adjustable turn-on voltages, and the electronic process is a delayed charging of one of the floating gate cells.

7. The method according to claim 5, which comprises:

in a first step, checking whether the value of the electrical variable of the first component corresponds to a predefined basic value;

in a second step, if the value of the electrical variable of the first component corresponds to the predefined basic value, proceeding to the following third step and, if the value of the electrical variable of the first component does not

correspond to the predefined basic value, setting the value of the electrical variable of the first component to the basic value and setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the specific time taken by the electronic process is prolonged;

in a third step, executing the electronic process until the values of the electrical variable of the two components match one another;

in a fourth step, checking whether authorization exists to use the electronic device;

in a fifth step, if authorization exists, rendering possible the use of the electronic device and, if authorization does not exist, setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the time taken by the electronic process is prolonged; and

in a sixth step, setting the value of the electrical variable of the first component to the basic value.

8. The method according to claim 5, which comprises:

in a first step, checking whether the value of the electrical variable of the first component corresponds to a predefined basic value;

in a second step, if the value of the electrical variable of the first component corresponds to the predefined basic value, proceeding to the following third step and, if the value of the electrical variable of the first component does not correspond to the predefined basic value, setting the value of the electrical variable of the first component to the basic value and setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the specific time taken by the electronic process is prolonged, and executing the electronic process until the values of the electrical variable of the two components match one another;

in a third step, checking whether authorization exists to use the electronic device;

in a fourth step, if authorization exists, executing the electronic process until the values of the electrical variable of the two components correspond and rendering possible the use of the electronic device and, if authorization does not exist, setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the time taken by the electronic process is prolonged; and

in a fifth step, setting the value of the electrical variable of the first component to the basic value.

9. The method according to claim 5, which comprises:

in a first step, checking whether the value of the electrical variable of the first component is equal to the value of the electrical variable of the second component;

in a second step, if the values of the electrical variables are equal, proceeding with the system to the following third step and, if the values are not equal, setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the time taken by the electronic process is prolonged;

in a third step, setting the value of the electrical variable of the first component to a predefined basic value different from the reference value;

in a fourth step, executing the electronic process until the values of the electrical variable of the two components correspond;

in a fifth step, checking whether authorization exists to use the electronic device; and

in a sixth step, if authorization exists, rendering possible the use of the electronic device and, if authorization does not exist, setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the time taken by the electronic process is prolonged.

10. The method according to claim 5, which comprises:

in a first step, checking whether the value of the electrical variable of the first component is equal to the value of the electrical variable of the second component;

in a second step, if the values of the electrical variables are equal, proceeding with the system to the following third step and, if the values are not equal, setting the value of the electrical variable of the second component to a new reference value, so that the time taken by the electronic process is prolonged, and executing the electronic process until the values of the electrical variable of the two components correspond;

in a third step, setting the value of the electrical variable of the first component to a predefined basic value different from the reference value;

in a fourth step, checking whether authorization exists to use the electronic device;

in a fifth step, if authorization exists, executing the electronic process until the values of the electrical variable of the two components correspond and rendering possible the

use of the electronic device and, if authorization does not exist, aborting the process.